

Murder convict ex-solon Villarosa back in Bilibid after 'medical holiday'

Spray-on condoms one of oddities in 2006

DETO, PIMA-KANLAN AND RAPIST!

DETO, PIMA-KANLAN AND RAPIST! The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) yesterday ordered the removal of a controversial advertisement from the 2006 national elections. The ad, which was full of obscenity, was found to be in violation of the law.

Sports commission to seek aid of billionaires Tan, Sy, Zobel for Olympic gold bid

Anger over Saddam taunting spills into street demonstrations

Ping back in Erap fold, will run for reelection in Senate

Comelec to Congress: No budget, no elections

By Jerome Aking and TJ Borlongo

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) yesterday urged Congress to pass the proposed budget of P1.25 billion for 2007, warning that the midterm polls on May 14 may not be held unless it gets enough funds.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, January 3, 2007 *** 4 sections / Vol. 72 / No. 26 P18

Peso hits 6-year high, closes at 48.915 to US dollar

By Davis C. Dumanog

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY SIX years, the peso yesterday broke into the 45 level against the US dollar on the stock market. The peso's rise was attributed to the fact that it had not moved since it peaked at 48.915 during the long holiday

break and investments into the stock market. The peso closed at 48.915, its strongest level since falling 48.90 to the low point on March 23, 2001. The rise was due to the fact that the peso had not moved since it peaked at 48.915 during the long holiday

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GMA: I did it for US ties

Palace seeks understanding for hard decision

By Christine O. Avendaño, Volt Contreras and Nemesio Bordado

FRACED WITH MOUNTING OUTRAGE over Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith's clandestine return to US custody, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday sought public understanding of the "difficult decision" that her administration had had to make.

She said the Dec. 29 decision was made in order to prevent the "further deterioration" of the Philippines' ties with the United States, that the executive branch was made to face any legal challenge, and that it was confident that the decision's "legitimacy and wisdom" would be upheld.

"This difficult decision was made and acted with only the best interests of the Philippines in mind," she



THE VIEW: Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith is in solitary confinement inside a 10 x 12 room behind a steel door with a guard in the room on the first floor of the jointing building at the US Embassy compound. This did Marine Corps, DILG undersecretary who heads the custodial team (in barrow) describe the detention quarters of the convicted rapist. The midway was closed Sunday in deference to a national day of mourning for former US President Gerald Ford. But Corps and PNP Deputy Director for Intelligence Alejandra Lapina (right) are allowed in by the chief of security (left) (photo courtesy).

Canceled Balikatan war games back on track

By Volt Contreras

THE CANCELED-BALIKATAN WAR GAMES WERE expected to start yesterday—but they did not. The Philippine military and the US military confirmed in separate statements that the games were canceled.

Officials from both the Department of Defense and the US Embassy confirmed in separate statements that the games were canceled.

Nicole's lawyers ask CA to order Smith's arrest

By Tanya V. Quinswade and Armand N. Macara

THE MOTHER OF "TRICOLE" yesterday demanded seeing words as a fellow mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo. "She is also a mother, a grandmother. What if this happens to her baby?"

ly" the mother of the Philippine woman who had won a best-of-the-race award against a US Marine and in a phone interview.

She expressed outrage at what she called the "underground" transfer of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith back to American custody to which, she said, the

President had given "the green light."

"We like family have a very low profile now because we feel like we were sold out. The leadership of GMA is not good. We were all betrayed—me and all the [other] Filipinos—instead of the government helping us," she said, adding:

"Selling out President's name."

Nicole's lawyers, assisted by former Senators Jovito Salonga and Villegas to Bulako, yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to order the arrest of Smith, whom they described as "a fugitive from justice."

INQUIRER

12M textbooks out of storage, set for distribution

By Fa Zanzara

THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE weather-proof and child-proof.

Starting any more hitches, some 12 million pupils from Grade 1 to Grade 5 will finally be reading the "New Basic Education" textbooks on new and modern classrooms in public schools open to face.

A joint team from the Department of Education, Department of Budget and Management and representatives from civil society yesterday began a random quality inspection of 900,115 books at a Bureau warehouse, where the books had been kept since a former cabinet stopped their delivery to the provinces in November.

Some 11 million other copies of the books—called "New Basic Education"—are kept in separate warehouses.

Boxes of books stacked as high as three meters yesterday showed the quality inspection teams, which included volunteers.

Armed with a three-page checklist of specifications, the team members pulled pages to test the strength of the binding, and went from page to page to verify the accuracy of pagination, as well as the quality of printing.

After about an hour, the team inspected three boxes of books—about a 10% sample.



ON SITE INSPECTION: Representatives from the Departments of Education, Budget and Management and civil society groups check on the quality of more than 900,000 books which had been stored at a Pasig warehouse since last November.

Spare the rod; spoil your kids with love

By Tina Arnes-Davila

"YOU DID A GOOD THING."
"I'm proud of you."
"Hooray!"

There are the expressions of love that children yearn to hear from their parents, according to the non-governmental organization Save the Children's Studies in the Philippines.

Children aged 7 to 17 rated these expressions during an ongoing birth day research designed to discover what 100 children, mostly from urban poor communities, to express their thoughts on discipline and relationship with parents.

Their views were consistent with the study of 800 that children have rights and that physical and verbal abuse violate those inherent rights.

What makes the children even more proud, SCS said, is that the abuse is done by people who are supposed to love and take care of them, such as parents and siblings.

The incidence of physical abuse in the Philippines has plagued SCS in the past.

INQUIRER

GMA: I did it for US ties

Interview with an ambassador.
"I therefore will stand behind an alliance with the United States to fight terror and poverty," said the ambassador.

Malibanan had been relatively quiet about Smith's detention since the night transfer to the US Embassy in Manila.

The action has prompted not only the camp of "Noah," the Philippine senator, where Smith was arrested, but also the opposition.

Only custody issue
"We must respect the rights of the public," said Smith's critics in the Philippines.

"With us, we will be under a standing law for the people that is the same as the law for the people," said the ambassador.

No malice
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US embassy
Smith said Smith—who did not speak at the Manila City Jail in a room across from the other detainees—was "generally in good spirits and cheerful" about his situation in the US embassy.

Smith said he was in the US Embassy in the afternoon of Dec. 31. He related his first time at the jail.

"I was not in a position to make any statement," said the ambassador.

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"In solitary confinement"
By Norman Borlenghi
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HOUSE BILL No. 345: A TROJAN HORSE IN DISGUISE

An Appeal by the Business Community to Discard
House Approved Across-the-Board Wage Increase

Perhaps unwittingly, the House of Representatives may have created a Trojan Horse ticking like a bomb in passing House Bill No. 345 that mandates a P125 per day across-the-board wage increase over a period of three years, retroactive H1 October 2006.

With looming social, political and economic repercussions that will be brought about by this surreptitious and unfair action waiting is unfair. The question is: From where will the Statesman emerge to save the economy from this impending catastrophe?

A tale of the classic game "Erip to Jeramasyon" unfolds where the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Office of the President see major players, each equally capable of defusing the ticking bomb and emerge as the true Statesman.

We hope the Lower House will take action and defuse it even before it reaches the Senate. We hope the Senate defuses it if the Lower House transmits it to them, and, we hope the President will veto the Bill if both the legislative bodies refuse to put the interest of the nation above political considerations.

Coming at a time when the economy is under pressure to move faster amidst global and domestic challenges, a legislated wage increase undermines the viability of most of the country's businesses, particularly the small and medium enterprises that are providing jobs to most Filipinos.

Implementing the proposed wage increase will result to a staggering 1.2 trillion pesos additional labor costs in the next three years. An increase of such magnitude, not related to productivity, will surely result to the demise of enterprises.

A legislated salary increase for all private sector workers will cause a chain reaction of disastrous proportion such as unprecedented spiraling cost-push inflation, massive job losses and minimal use of labor-intensive operations or technology.

We, the undersigned representatives of the Philippine business community, are united in rejecting the legislated wage increase and call for the strengthening of the regional wage boards.



Stanley S. Tan
President, Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry (PCCI)



Romeo A. Cruz
President, Federation of
Offshore Chinese Chambers of
Commerce and Industry, Inc.
(FCCCII)



Jose Narayan
President, Association
of Chambers of the Philippines
(ACOP)



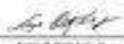
Ramon S. Uy
President, Builders Association of
the Philippines



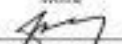
Ramon M. Dela Cruz
President, Retail Business Assn.



Miguel S. Yano
President, Philippine Assn.



Sergio S. Nolasco
President, Philippine Exporters
Association (PHILPEXA)




Carlos Lopez
President, Philippine
Franchise Association (PFA)



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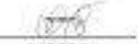
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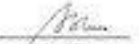
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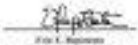
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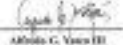
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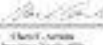
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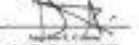
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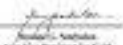
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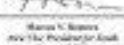
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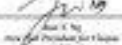
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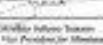
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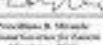
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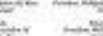
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ART THERAPY is designed to encourage some 188 children living here to help their communities, to improve their thoughts on their relationship with their parents and how the latter discipline them. **COMPTON/UNICEF**

Spare the rod; spoil your kids with love

News page 1

for governmental, and often still society-wide, efforts to help out so as not to the corporal punishment of children.

UNICEF country manager Jerome D. Carberry said during the Forum on Institutions to End the Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children last November that corporal punishment threatened the long-term emotional and physical development of children.

El parent

Corporal punishment is defined as an adult use of force to inflict physical and emotional pain or suffering on a child.

This is often done after a perceived act of disrespect for or disobedience to parents or people in charge of a child's care.

In UNICEF's study to identify the managers in the United States, Mexico and other countries that prevent or use 100 children interviewed and their received physical punishment in their homes.

More positive ways

As much as 62 percent reported experiencing direct assault in different parts of the body with spanking as the most common 65 percent.

About 78 percent said they felt hurt or pain after being punished, and 77 percent said they wanted their parents to use more positive ways of disciplining them.

"Children have rights. They should be treated with respect and dignity. We are here to make sure they have no rights," Compton said.

Children's yearnings

When asked about their views on corporal punishment, children conveyed by the survey said:

- "Be good like models so that we can learn from you."
- "Don't raise your hand and slap me."
- "No children, we know about the realities of our lives. We know good ideas that can help. Please make it easy for us to share these with you."

Common among Asians

Dominique Pierre Pitarum, regional adviser of Asia for the Children's Foundation, said that corporal punishment was common in Asia, affecting children from all levels of society, regardless of culture and religion.

Pitarum shared that the UNICEF collected from more than 1,000 children and over 1,000 adults that show that sometimes brutal punishment was viewed as an effective way to discipline children in the home of their "best interests."

No 905 parents from the Children's Foundation Asia and the Pacific shared that spanking, scolding, pinching, shouting, and hitting were common methods of punishment—plus some cases of beating and whipping.

Learning more

Among the most common examples of punishment mentioned in the research are slapping, spanking and hitting with a stick or belt. Parents said that spanking and hitting were common methods of punishment—plus some cases of beating and whipping.

While the common methods of punishment in the Philippines are known, some companies have reported to other countries in Asia, the one thing all the children want is for all forms of punishment to end, no matter how "good" the intent is.

As the child grows up, she hopes that the more that spanking and hitting the children will be the more that will child be in a big, safe and loving home.

Peso hits 6-year high,

News page 1

Inflation held steady

The Manila-based, domestic-led, by research in the National Economic and Development Authority said that the country's inflation rate is expected to remain stable at 3.5 percent this year despite the peso's strong appreciation.

"It's true that a stronger peso will offset the appreciation of the peso (inflation) in the domestic market for the general public," the source said in a statement on Jan. 24, 2010, but it's not the case because it's being driven by growth in the services sector," he said.

Inflation confidence

Secretary Antonio Trillanes Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that the peso's strong performance will help the country's inflation rate.

The declining inflation rate, in-

creased fiscal performance and steady growth have allowed us to maintain confidence, which has helped support the peso, Trillanes said.

"With the continuation of these positive factors and the outlook for 2010, inflation of the peso is expected to remain stable this year," he said.

The BSP expects the economy to double up a billion of payment surplus of P1.4 billion this year with strong flows from OFWs expected to compensate for a possible decline in remittance income from a projected 1.4 billion peso increase in the first half of 2010.

The BSP remains the benchmark change in inflation between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Any situation, which gives rise to a positive change in the peso's value, is a positive change in the peso's value.

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The declining inflation rate, in-

BPI Family Savings
on the New Year

"The magical Neverland in all its splendour..."
The Business Times, Singapore

Open a BPI Family Savings Bank Get Started Savings Account with Life Insurance from January 2 to Feb 28, 2010. Deposit and get **FREE** tickets to the international smash hit musical adaptation of JM Barrie's ageless Peter Pan. Use these **FREE** tickets in the special gala performance for Get Started Savings Account client. The Peter Pan card will also visit the following BPI Family Savings Bank branches to meet and greet you: Alabang, BF E1 Grande (Jan. 23), BF President's Avenue (Jan. 23), Shaw Kapolyo (Jan. 24), E. Rodriguez (Jan. 24), Compton (Jan. 24). All BPI Family Savings Bank Deposit and Loan clients are entitled to up to 10% discount on tickets for the regular performance dates. Discount coupons are available in BPI Family Savings Bank head office. For more information, call 89-100 or visit any BPI Family Savings Bank branch.

Pan
The Peter Pan Musical, Inc. 2010. Terms of 2010. See brochure for details.

Get Started
BPI Family Savings Bank

closes at 48.915 to US dollar

...reporting an
...change from
...of the year
...of 21.4 billion
...The various
...public and pri
...domestic
...and forces, like
...dollar would
...ent the price



A MONEY changer in Makati City counts money as the peso reached its highest level in six years.

...er weakens
...governed by most
...luffed against
...year due to an
...in view by the
...dential bank,
...growth in the
...ing
...trolling system
...downed for
...lowest the peso

...ntionally-poorer," said
...house, member of Chinese Com
...mercial Bank. "It's also the reason why
...movement as a policy need and
...there's much domestic dollar."

...tence the price, however said the
...markets were closely watching the
...movement of US interest rates, as
...this would have a significant influ
...ence on interest appetite for emerg
...ing markets, like the Philippines.
...When interest rates in the United
...States only declined too low, currency
...and to move for higher yielding in
...vestment in developing countries.
...Jonathan Garcia, chief strategist at
...Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said
...the peso would further benefit from a
...general US bank price rise by the US
...Federal Reserve this year, beginning
...with a quarter percentage reduction
...to nearly break the 4% barrier.
...The recovery at the spot foreign ex
...change market was \$273.4 million.
...Singapore's long weekend, OFW re

...would likely trade between 48.90
...and 49.00 to the dollar today.

Correction

Marino Apri, senior vice presi
...dent at Global Commercial Banking
...Corp., said the sentiment was still
...generally bearish for the peso, which
...could further strengthen to the
...48.50 level by year's end.

"Normally, holiday transactions
...last only up to the first week of Janu
...ary," Apri said.
..."But on the other hand, consum
...er demand is not there and particu
...larly inflow into the stock market
...could be the driver that we need a
...healthy correction," he said.

Marino said that after the first
...few days of the year, the foreign ex
...change market would usually come
...in form of the US dollar. Furthermore
...the spread after the Chinese New
...Year in February.

Investment bank of Singapore
...had projected that the peso would
...break into the 48-level against the
...US dollar early this year and further
...rise to 47 in the second semester.
...Despite market stress over the May
...electoral results, BNP said.

"We like the peso but expect
...volatility with the May 2007 elec
...tions," BNP said in its macroeconomic
...note in the first quarter of 2007.

Appreciation will only occur on oc
...casions, with the central bank cutting
...rates in 2007, it said.
...Any monetary easing, which re
...sults in lower yields on peso-denom
...inated assets, simply makes the cur
...rency less an attractive investment.

OFW expects the BNP to cut its key
...policy rate twice next year—by 25 ba
...sis points in the first quarter and again
...in the second quarter of 2007, bringing
...down the overnight borrowing rate to 7
...percent from the current 7.5 percent.



A REPRESENTATIVE from the Independent team
...picks over one of the books at a warehouse in
...Pawtucket City on Tuesday.

Bank Gets You Started with FREE Tickets to

eter an

MUSICAL

"Young and old gasped in delight!"
—The Straits Times, Singapore

"Whatever you remember as a kid - pump it up 10 times!"
—South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

January 3, 2007 at a required initial

classic **Pan**

on February 4, 2007, 4pm at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater.

ing Casa Marikina (Jan. 16), Better Living (Jan. 16), Main (Jan. 17), Vito Cruz (Jan. 17), Katherine Uyella (Jan. 18),
Commonwealth (Jan. 25), Tandang (Jan. 30), Marikina General Outlets (Feb. 01)

et purchases at all TicketWorld outlets in any of
ce for loan clients and branches for deposit clients.

ck notes.



RPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get grounded on investments.

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12M textbooks out of storage, set for distribution

From page B1

limited copies, which were found to
have weak bindings and crumpled
pages.

"It has to withstand rain and sun, and
rough handling by children," said engineer
Ben Calabang, a field officer of the
DepEd's Instructional Materials Council
(IMC).

Calabang said the books should have a "life
span" of at least five years.

One book per pupil

To ensure a one-book-one-pupil ratio, as
well as a continuous replacement, some
120,000 copies of the textbooks will be
kept at the DepEd as a "warehouse" in
2007.

After an inspection tour of G. White more,
director Rodrigo S. Paredes said that
having any backlog, the textbooks would
be delivered to the provinces in Novem
ber.

Then, the books will undergo another
round of quality inspection by local DepEd
divisions and volunteer improvement orga
nizations.

Supreme Court issue in

"It is part to withstand rain and sun, and
rough handling by children," said engineer
Ben Calabang, a field officer of the
DepEd's Instructional Materials Council
(IMC).

The delivery was initially scheduled last
Nov. 13 to Dec. 22. But this was cancelled
after a heavy boiler smelter—and was
cancelled—up inspection from a lower court
on the ground that the two winning bid
ders were involved in a "conflict of inter
est."

However, the Supreme Court threw out last
Dec. 20 the injunction, saying the way for the
full implementation of the P944-million
government contract with firms that supply
12 million textbooks.

The textbook is funded by Reproductive
Costs Grants.

\$308-M loan

Last year, the World Bank granted the
Philippines a \$200 million loan to address
the problem of the declining quality of public edu
cation.

The money was earmarked for textbooks
and teaching materials, libraries and lab
equipment, and to improve teaching meth
ods.

The books were supplied by Vibal Publish
ing House, Phoenix Asset Printing and Pub
lishing Co. Ltd and the German International
Supply Corp.

Vibal is a Filipino company while Phoenix
and Phoenix are Thai and Korean firms, re
spectively.

More books in the pipeline

According to Calabang, the books under
went a four-level control evaluation by ex
perts on the subject.

He said the small reader textbooks for
Grade 3 pupils and high school students
were still under evaluation prior to print
ing.

G. White has been monitoring the procure
ment and delivery of textbooks to the DepEd
since 2003.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor: Joe B. Bantayan
 Editor: Joe Bantayan
 Editor: Joe Bantayan

Infra projects, investments to boost C. Luzon economy

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND business leaders in Central Luzon are largely optimistic about 2007. The upside could come mainly from the completion of the Suba-Clark Airway Expressway (SCAE) in October or November, after connecting three economic powerhouses in the region: the Suba Bay Expressway, Clark Special Economic Zone, and the Suba-Clark Airway Expressway. All infrastructure projects, primarily the Suba-Clark Airway Expressway, are expected to boost the region's economy, according to government officials.

For Jose Romero, private sector representative in the National Economic and Development Authority, given this scenario it is not clear that the economic growth will be as strong as policy and regulatory demands that bring and sustain opportunities in local investment, particularly in infrastructure, and in the private sector. He also noted that the region's economy is still weak, and that the region's economy is still weak, and that the region's economy is still weak.

Central Luzon will be in the center stage of countryside regional development with the influx of more investments

Government officials and business leaders in Central Luzon are optimistic about 2007. The upside could come mainly from the completion of the Suba-Clark Airway Expressway (SCAE) in October or November, after connecting three economic powerhouses in the region: the Suba Bay Expressway, Clark Special Economic Zone, and the Suba-Clark Airway Expressway. All infrastructure projects, primarily the Suba-Clark Airway Expressway, are expected to boost the region's economy, according to government officials.

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The many tastes, looks and names of 'sisig'

THE SIZZLING "SISIG" WENT BY different names, looks and names in Angeles City when professional and amateur chefs prepared 177 recipes during the fourth Sisig Festival last month.

When the first "sisig" was prepared in Angeles City, it was called "sisig" and was made of pork head, liver and the roasted pig's head, among other things.

Starting away from the ancient version, the first "sisig" was made of pork head, liver and the roasted pig's head, among other things.

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Some of the 177 recipes submitted for the Sisig Festival in Angeles City.

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All in: Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
CHOC
number 5 8 7 1 3 6 7

News

642 Luzon • 619 Mindanao
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Lawyers offer gov't half of Marcos money

By Dennis L. Lopez

A LAWYER REPRESENTING HEIR apparent rights of the Marcos regime yesterday offered to split with the Presidential Commission on Good Government P25 million to dispute Marcos' assets being held by the Singapore branch of Citibank.

Lopez said Domingo is, apparently, not sure that his clients were winning against the government in recent cases in Singapore over ownership of the funds, referred to as the P25 million.

The money is from the Swiss deposits of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that were ordered transferred to the

Philippines after the Philippine Supreme Court ruled that they were ill-gotten.

The P25 million is part of the original \$100 million (P25 million) taken from the Ferdinand Marcos Foundation—then the Swiss Supreme Court said were "intermediaries" of Marcos—to take the money—which kept the funds in Swiss banks. The money was being held in escrow by the Philippine National Bank, the court-appointed receiver agent, while the cases against the Marcoses were being decided in the courts.

When the SC decides, depending on the issues, deposits in pesos and the order amounts the P25 million to the Philip-

pine government under the New Leadership Initiative in Singapore, which is to release the P25 million said a Singapore court ruled on their ownership.

The P25 million is being claimed by the government, the Golden Buddha Corp, and the estate of Ruffa Hizon, and the dispute rights about estates in Swiss part of the P25 million judgment that they were against the Marcoses in a bank of Swiss court in 1995.

Last week the Singapore appellate court rejected a motion from the Philippine government to stop the proceedings to determine the ownership of the P25 million, effectively meaning that a

Singapore court case among the competing claimants will continue.

Taking this as a victory for his clients, Domingo came forward with his offer to the PCGG which intends to appoint the Singapore court ruling.

"We're willing to talk, even if we're winning, we're willing to sit down, talk them down and negotiate," Domingo said. "We are willing to negotiate this problem, but first they have to agree to negotiate."

"We're not hostile. We want to offer a piece of this to the government," he said. But he doubted the PCGG would accept because "public interest is there. We want

right when there's something involved."

Domingo said the PCGG had offered an amount totaling \$10 million to the case of the P25 million but he brought to the Marcos family foundation, which said US-born Marcos II had been ordered to transfer US\$10 million to the PCGG as part of the P25 million judgment.

He said the P25 million judgment was awarded to Domingo about 1995.

The PCGG last an appeal against the decision to allow a US appellate court to hear the case, but the PCGG said it has said it would appeal the case to the US Supreme Court.

Domingo said it would not agree to the PCGG offer of a deal on the Airline

regiment and the Marcoses were heard by the executive committee.

Buyers, gov't defer sale of PLDT stake

By Dennis L. Lopez

THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY THAT surrounded moves to dispose of the government's remaining stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) may have given prospective buyers pause, according to a source official with knowledge of the deal.

The controversy caused by politicians opposed to the deal has forced the government and PLDT to delay the sale of the stake to the PLDT Co. Ltd. in response to the ongoing Philippine court case on the ownership of the stake.

"I think the Japanese are getting worried," said the official who declined to be named as he has been prohibited from speaking to the media about the issue.

The Japanese interest group NTT DoCoMo, a minority shareholder in the country's largest telecommunications firm, together with PLDT majority owner First Pacific, MTC, and the Philippine National Bank (PNB) have expressed an intention to acquire stakeholder an additional 10 percent of PLDT stock indirectly, through a 10 percent stake in the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC), which owned about 6.4 percent of PLDT.

The movement official said PLDT stake and PNB Pacific managing director Manuel A. Pangalanan also wanted more time to consider the move.

He said he was not sure why the Japanese group assembled by Pangalanan was put off by the adverse publicity he said. "Pangalanan should be more in the know."

Under the plan initially laid out with the help of the finance department, the First Pacific-NTT DoCoMo tandem would have shelled out 50 percent of the P25.2 billion purchase price for the PTIC shares with the signing of the respective sale agreements last Friday.

But the First Pacific group was worried that it would only be able to pay P1.5 billion by Friday, partly because its Japanese partners had been put off by the controversy, the official added. But even that deadline was uncertain.

DOJ OKs arrests against Abra gov

By Bernard M. Macara

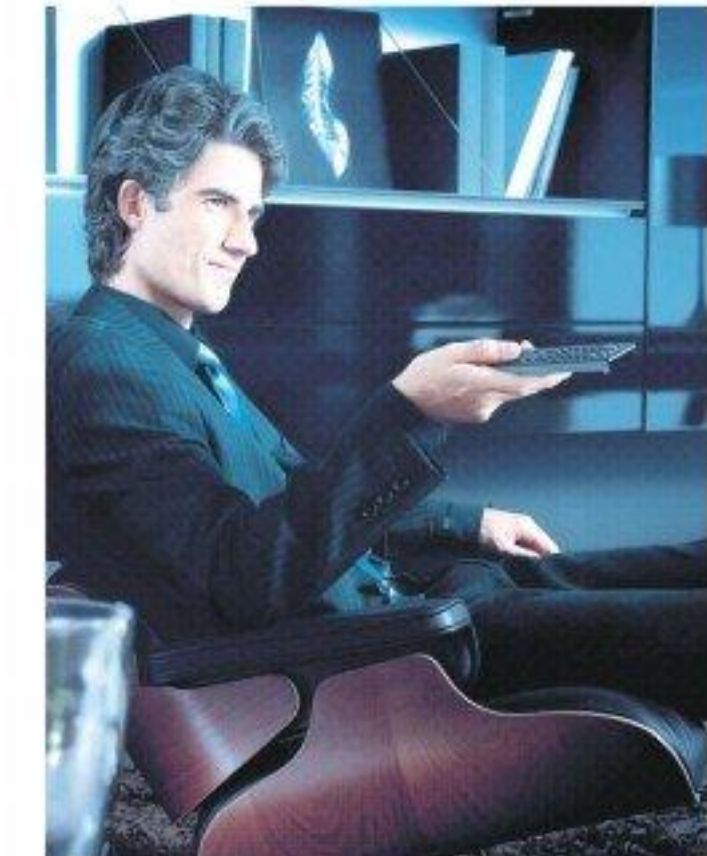
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE YESTERDAY approved the filing of criminal charges against Abra Gov. Vicente Velasco, his driver and a bodyguard who were arrested in a drug raid operation of Iligan on Dec. 29 in Iligan City.

In a four-page resolution, the DOJ recommended the filing of charges before the Quezon City regional trial court for violation of Presidential Decree No. 1604 and Republic Act No. 8204, which regulate assembly and possession of firearms, against Velasco, his driver Pedro Castillo, and companion Leo Bello.

"The justice prosecutor is convinced that all respondents conspired to hold and control all the firearms and possibly found in the Gabalton car, any or all of the respondents have unlimited access and use of said firearms found inside the car, only respondent Velasco should be charged for the illegal possession of the two unfurnished firearms and pistols, based on the letter request for the release of two firearms and information, he admitted possession and control of the firearms," said the resolution signed by Justice Francisco Romero B. Sison.

The DOJ prosecutor also recommended a bail of P250,000 for each respondent. The resolution also following a complaint filed by the Philippine National Police-Iligan Management Group (PNMIG) Task Force Unit for the apprehension of Velasco and the acquisition.

Police officers had stopped down Velasco's vehicle, a Chevrolet Suburban, at about 3 a.m. Friday, when they reported that a haul on license plate, upon inspection, police found the guns inside the vehicle.



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Representing technology, the Samsung LED TV offers a truly a minimalist elegance. All-in-one glossy finish, hidden glass-enclosed, hidden bar speakers and silver metal stand, it fits seamlessly into any space. And with the highest resolution images of up to 1080p, watching your favorite movies or sports programs has never been more intense. All-in-one Samsung LED TV, it's not just how it looks, it's how it works.

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Villarosa returns to Muntinlupa jail

Ex-solon granted emergency leave to treat 'heart problem'



FBI photo of former Rep. Jose Villarosa who was back at the New Bilibid Prison yesterday after he was released to the Pineda Medical Center in Dec. 24 where he stayed for nine days. With him is his wife, Occidental Mindoro Rep. Aminda Villarosa.

By Joseph R. Uy

MURDER CONVICTION and former Congressman Jose Villarosa is back at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City after his 10-day confinement at the Pineda Medical Center for heart problems.

The former Occidental Mindoro representative arrived at the maximum security compound of the national penitentiary a few minutes past 11 a.m. on board an ambulance of the Bureau of Corrections.

Villarosa left prison on the afternoon of Dec. 24 for emergency surgery. NBP Director Yerrine Villarosa told the Inquirer over the phone last week.

Villarosa had also denied reports that the Senate order, who was sentenced to death last year with six others for killing the late son of his political rival, former Rep. Ricardo Duterte, was granted a "hardship release."

According to Villarosa, Villarosa had to be rushed to the hospital because his blood pressure had shot up and his legs were also swollen.

"I was on emergency. We had to take him out of jail and bring him to another hospital because we did not have the facilities to treat him," Villarosa said. "The NBP official told the Inquirer last week."

He also said the incident a "matter of life and death."

When he arrived in prison yesterday, Villarosa was accompanied by his wife, Rep. Aminda Villarosa, several security escorts and a doctor, prison officials said.

Villarosa was arrested after the "Muntinlupa bid" — a group of men who were charged with the killing of Duterte's son — was arrested in 1997.

The arrest was later commuted to life imprisonment after the death of Duterte's son.

The Duterte brothers were arrested in 1997 in a bid to end the Duterte family's control in the province of Davao.

Villarosa was accused of participating in the killing, which was believed to be a political move. He was later charged with the killing of Duterte's son.

Atienza endorses ban on use of 'boga'



MMT Inquiries that occurred during the New Year celebration were attributed to the use of the boga by corporations.

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA yesterday urged the City Council to immediately pass an ordinance banning the boga as he cited the danger posed by the popular last-day celebration to the public.

Citing the report given by city health officer in charge Dr. Jose Gamboa, Atienza said 34 persons or 77 out of the 200 cases of liver cancer-related injuries during the New Year celebration were caused by the boga.

He added that most of the victims were children below 10 years old who sustained eye and ear injuries as well as facial burns.

Atienza had earlier ordered po-

litical parties in the city to confine the display of boga to the area near the main entrance of the city hall.

The boga is an improvised structure made of bamboo poles, with a net of a food replicator which is used to display the boga. It is also used to display the boga.

"We consider the boga a very destructive and dangerous thing. It should not be allowed," Atienza said.

The ordered boga-related officials to confiscate all boga in their respective jurisdictions to minimize the damage posed by the device, according to Mayor's Day.



People looking for boga in the New Year celebration. The boga is a structure made of bamboo poles and food replicators.

Shooting incidents disturb Pasig residents

By Edwin C. Tanaka Jr.

AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN was shot and killed on a crowded street in Pasig City a day after a shooting spree which killed a 16-year-old man and injured nine persons who were attending a New Year's Eve party.

"The area is already peaceful," city police chief Emilio Lopez, Pasig Police Station, said.

The police said that the shooting spree was the result of a group of men, including a group of men, who were attending a New Year's Eve party.

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Seven days prior to the shooting, a 16-year-old man was shot and killed on a crowded street in Pasig City a day after a shooting spree which killed a 16-year-old man and injured nine persons who were attending a New Year's Eve party.

The police said that the shooting spree was the result of a group of men, including a group of men, who were attending a New Year's Eve party.

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chased him and as he reached Barangay Pangasinan, the suspect shot him in the head. SP-1 Robert Garcia told the Inquirer.

Officers were a cover witness to a homicide and frustrated homicide case which happened

the month ago, also in Barangay Pangasinan.

The incident occurred in the area of the city hall, where the boga is displayed.

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Luck comes in many shapes in Chinatown

By Tina G. Santos

WITH THE START OF THE NEW Year, residents in the City of Manila are making a bet for Chinatown in Manila to bring them good luck for the year.

This tradition is a Chinese custom that has been passed down for generations. It is a bet for the year.

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center in Chinatown City and the main building is a great big chess that would cause financial prosperity for the family.

This being the day of the pig, the chess would cause people to win the pig in a bet for the year.

"This is because the pig is an animal that does not bite and it is a bet for the year."

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RAVE, MEDIUM OR WELL DONE?

A restaurant located in UP Village, Quezon City (Quezon) - what else but - steak.

PHOTO

DID YOU KNOW

THE MARIAN HOTEL, which occupies 10 hectares on Barrio San Juan, was built in 1917. Designed by the famous architect William Parsons, it has 120 rooms and a large swimming pool.

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What's certain for 2007

ONE THING MESSAGE WRITERS HAVE to get used to is the unapologetic violence and the vulgar display of life around 2007.

That, it was already suggested, should be one of our New Year's resolutions.

Thank you, Tico. In my final year's returned enough headlines close to midnight last day as 2007 was welcomed here in wild, wild chatter.

There were those who said that when 2007 began it was in the New Year.

Anyway, but it depends on how you spend the last day of the year, or where you stand around as readers used to treat the city spent with several resolutions and programs.

There definitely were many trash in shuffling heaps and mounds, with our streets still resembling a garbage dump the morning after.

For a fact, our overcrowded, underpaid street-sweepers have every reason to protest.

They continue to labor tirelessly among *basob* ridges that have been slowly forgotten to be the garbage can.

They also continue to be ruled by long, lanky leaders who have come from the provinces that it was their main task in one that politicians are so-called millionaires and respected.

And to say what these poor men should do is to be the start of the



David Trinidad

year could be nothing more than a re-run.

Yes, there definitely would be a second day and a second, not to mention two, including graft and *blis*, when they measure the 2007 Philippine election.

There will be a total breakdown of regulations, vulgar political powers, covering all available spots, and violence also expected to lead some heights in the run-up to the polls and

democracies.

The more of our elections would again be. The dirty the market.

There will be no running the election, but there certainly will be no killings.

This only can only predict the 2007 election will be the year's top political story headline.

Meanwhile, out there on the sports front, Manny Pacquiao, celebrated two-fisted fighter and politician, will remain a controversial figure.

Unfortunately, there's the danger of him gradually losing respect, and only being a lion but almost as well, with his intense commitment to his political career.

Pacquiao did not lose national unity

in his New Year message.

Of course, the boxing hero should have put his previous work by giving examples as how to fix our society.

He could, in fact, be an agent of national by selling character change that may be his hoped-for political career.

Pacquiao showed the malice of a dirty politician by refusing to know what he had formerly agreed with the prominent group of strong men in the Philippines.

At least, there's one shining star: Pacquiao should show his hat and more up the Philippine political scene this year.

Not you, anyway.

PSC to seek billionaires' aid for Olympic gold bid

FM Pimentel Singapore tilt co-champion

By Jane Ramirez

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (AP) — The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) is looking for billionaires to help it bid for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

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THEY COULD HELP: From left, Lito Tanchico, Henry Sy Jr. and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

It hopes they give something back to the country through sports.

The PSC also said the Philippines bid would help launch a long-term program being supported by the government sports agency and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

First Secretary Jose Manuel "Mami" Araya had said he promised to help the president for athletes who will be picked by the POC and PSC to train overseas.

For the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Other than Araya's commitment, sports leaders will have to find consistent goldfish for Philippine sports to compete in programs even after the Olympics.

"I believe that one of the greatest, if not the most, factor, was to unite the country through sports and it has been proven," said Araya. "These people [billionaires] could help make it happen."

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (AP) — The Philippines is a co-champion in the bid for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

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SPORTS

Mamiit, Taino answer SEAG call



TWOACES: Codi Mamiit (left) and Erik Taino.

By Marc Jacobson Reyes

CICI, MAMIIT AND ERIC, DINO, PEGINO—American who happened to take Philippine tennis the past two years, have agreed to take the country's tennis again in the 2006 Southeast Asian Games in Thailand and the Asian Cup in the Philippines.

Mamiit and Taino, both 29, were a pair of teenage tennis stars in the Philippines. They first dated since in their

adolescence.

Officials of the Philippine Tennis Association (PTA) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) have agreed to take the country's tennis again in the 2006 Southeast Asian Games in Thailand and the Asian Cup in the Philippines.

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The last time the Philippines won Asian Games medals was in 1974 in Bangkok, when the men's and women's tennis teams won silver and bronze medals.

Mamiit and Taino will be joined in the Davis Cup by Peadar Kirby, Taino's brother and former partner.

Mamiit said the PTA has just been able to improve on the country's tennis through a long-term plan by Mamiit and Taino.

I've done my best, I've left my legacy—El Presidente

By Francis Ochoa

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PHILIPPINE TENNIS ASSOCIATION (PTA), RANGLER PERALTA, HAS TAKEN A STEP FURTHER FROM THE COURT TO BECOME A TENNIS LEGEND IN THE PHILIPPINE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

Throughout his career, Peralta has been a role model for many young tennis players in the Philippines. He has been a coach, a player, and a leader. He has been a role model for many young tennis players in the Philippines.

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SNAPSHOT MEMORIES For his time in the PTA, Peralta has been a role model for many young tennis players in the Philippines.

'Whatever frustrations I had off the court, I used my performance on the court to prove myself' — Mon Fernandez

Mon Fernandez has been a role model for many young tennis players in the Philippines. He has been a coach, a player, and a leader. He has been a role model for many young tennis players in the Philippines.

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RP coach still hoping top striker could play

By Cedric F. Yap, Inquirer Staff Writer

NATIONAL TEAM COACH ARNOLD STREIBER still hopes that top striker Philip Younghusband will reconsider his decision not to play in the Asian Championship team.

Streibler said that he had been in touch with Younghusband since he decided not to play in the Asian Championship team.

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REDIES OF THE YEAR

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SPORTSWATCH

Pesada tops P3-M Makati derby

MAKATI COUNTRY CLUB (MCC) TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP was held at the Makati Country Club on January 2, 2007. The tournament was won by Pesada.

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SPORTSWATCH

Torre, Antonio, 5 others vying in Asian Zonal

ASIAN ZONAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP was held in Manila on January 2, 2007. The tournament was won by Torre, Antonio, and five other players.

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BUSINESS

Measures seen to protect investors' earnings in quasi-banks

By Derek C. Dunbar

AFTER UNPAID QUASI-banking activities for the last two years, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has drafted regulatory measures to protect investors in quasi-banks.

State Capitalism, BSP deputy governor, said yesterday that the policy-making Monetary Board on Thursday approved the imposition of tighter requirements on quasi-banks.

The BSP said a quasi-banking license should ensure investor satisfaction and proper risk disclosure. Because they're basically providing deposits, BSP said.

A quasi bank will remain in the BSP can issue domestic debt securities like promissory notes, corporate papers and service to purchase foreign instruments to

foreign the securities portfolio. This means that their activities, like banks, can become money from the public.

Under existing laws, no institution which runs more than 75 branches is considered an investment company from the public.

"They should declare that their products have no PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange) coverage, as well as the risks involved," Espinosa added. "This

is basically to strengthen consumer protection."

The requirement on investor liability will allow quasi-banks to distinguish between investors who are already familiar with financial instruments, and those who can not tell a normal bank from a non-bank bank, he said.

"We cannot in general liability investors from being abused," Espinosa said.

The BSP imposed a restriction on quasi-banking activities of investment houses and finance companies after several players failed during the 1990s.

But now that the BSP is again liberalizing the quasi-banking to existing windows, the BSP said investors are under pressure to ensure that bank financing will be limited to able participants while stronger consumer safeguards can put up.



ESPINOSA

Foreign buying at PSE surged 191% in '06

ICTSI enters 2007 with P338-M buy

By Rita T. Obando

INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION TERMINAL Services Inc. kicked off 2007 with the purchase of a majority stake in Luningco and the acquisition of a majority stake in Luningco and the acquisition of a majority stake in Luningco.

In a disclosure dated Jan. 25, ICTSI said the stock exchange that the acquisition of the 51.7 percent stake was made through buying company International Building Inc. (IBI), which ICTSI established to invest its investments in the Philippines.

The disclosure came in a separate disclosure that a expected to result in a gain of about P338 million from the sale and that the proceeds would be used to further reduce interest-bearing debt.

The ABCI group is one of the largest and most diversified companies in the country with business groups spanning various industries such as private banking, land production, property development, construction, shipping and more operations.

The PSE listing of the acquisition of the Philippine Home Loan (PHL) is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

ICTSI's 2006 revenue was P1.1 billion, with P1.1 billion in revenue from its PSE listing. ICTSI's 2006 revenue was P1.1 billion, with P1.1 billion in revenue from its PSE listing.

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HORSING AROUND

Reggie children, who made their way to the park, were seen to spend their holidays working horses near each other around the horse park. The park, which is one of the country's oldest attractions, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

OFWs in Taiwan to get break with new hiring program

By Rosalyn R. Domingo

PHILIPPINE WORKERS WILL FIND IT easier to go back to Taiwan if the new hiring program is approved.

Under another Executive Order, the new hiring program will allow OFWs to go back to Taiwan if the new hiring program is approved.

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10 - year	11.00%
25 - year	11.50%

* Based on 1% down payment and 1% interest rate. Interest rate is subject to change without notice. Interest rate is subject to change without notice. Interest rate is subject to change without notice.

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Court stops payment to Maynilad creditors

By Christine A. Gaytan

A COURT ORDER TO STOP MAYNILAD from paying its creditors has been issued by the court.

The court order was issued by the court. The court order was issued by the court.

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LIFESTYLE

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Promising people

By **Nico Mark M. Solano**
2007 Correspondent

THREE NAMES MAY NOT BE HOUSEHOLD NAMES AND THEIR faces may not be as well-known yet, but the beauty with passion and blessed with good looks, these local talents will be bigger, better and more famous in 2007, so help us God.

These local talents will be bigger, better and more famous by 2007, so help us God



Fearless forecast 2007

Last week, we turned back time. This week, we're going into our crystal balls to tell you who and what we're going to be big in 2007—the fashion, the music, the technology and the people. No doubt about it, 2007 is going to rock.



Iva Mito

With her fiery personality, charming smile and wholehearted spirit, this "grandma" hair-stylist is destined to attract a lot of attention both good and bad. If she plays her game correctly, she could end up as a big winner this year.

Rhian Ranes

After coming out of nowhere in 2006, making her TV debut via "Capala Kallit" followed by a couple of successful endorsements, Ranes cut her first drama series headliner this year as the villain in the TV film with her 2007 GMA-7 show "Lupin."

Isabel Oñ

This charming, sophisticated model-turned-actress bagged a couple of great endorsements last year, but her next round deal—on GMA-7's new image model—certainly puts her on the next big things.

Noelle Hernandez

During her older sister's time, Noelle was her backup, while she was making her own presence felt in the industry by appearing in several fashion editorials for magazines and dailies.

Will Devaughn

Buffy Mantico and Brad Jeter should welcome him to the model world, while he's here, into, out, and back at the same time. Devaughn is coming because of his sister's success. Will has been trying acting and modeling as well.

Sis

Sis, Sis, Sis, which she carries on well in the country, she must just like a lot. But with her unique voice and her skills, she's going to be a big star in 2007. Sis looks like she's going to be a big star in 2007.



Yag of "Pinoy Dream Academy"

The show was a very interesting. The one who was the last to finish, Yag, was the one who was the most popular. Yag was the one who was the most popular.



Yag was the one who was the most popular. Yag was the one who was the most popular. Yag was the one who was the most popular.

Jill Placer

It's a pity the date's made it to the final three of "Philippine Idol," because she's a perfect package: pretty, with a charming personality, and can carry herself very well. She is the winner, so, if it's not too late, she's the winner.

Fox of "Philippine Idol"

Being different, especially in show business, is something not really accepted here. But based on the reaction of the judges and the viewers of "Philippine Idol," Fox might just prove that the country is ready to welcome and embrace real talent. Despite her age, appearance and unusual voice, she's the winner.

Archie Santos

When Archie didn't emerge as the ultimate "Pinoy Pop Idol," he was actually disappointed. But knowing how much he wanted the title, he was not in a hurry to give up. He was not in a hurry to give up. He was not in a hurry to give up.

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by Eric W. Steinbock



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CHARMIE Tatum

By Nina Marie M. Soliman
Entertainment

HOLLYWOOD IS OVER. Growing with talent, surprise people. While some go belly and become infamous overnight, many others take a longer route before achieving big top star status.

The following celebrities made waves in 2006, and with their good looks, undeniable talent, passion and X factor, they are sure to make an even stronger impact.

Charming Tatum

The big and bold Charming started out in the industry as a piece of meat and as an actor in Rocky Horror's "Big Bang" role before he landed an acting career. He has appeared in a series of "Ice Man" or

Watch out for these celebrities as they aim for greater fame and fortune in Hollywood



RIHANNA

the Bachelor" and "It's All Coming Back To Me (Now)", does have a strong personality, the presence and the confidence of a heroine. She looked and acted like a real star. The first time we saw her on "American Idol" there she was being crowned as the most beautiful woman. But before a moment it

Lily Allen

Loud by everyone else, been for Lily Allen. She is an odd sort of song with her light and bubbly, very witty, a unique sound. We heard her but beautifully simple, "Smile." We want to hear more of Lily and we want more stories to tell her the past.

Leona Lewis

Leona is the winner of the first season of "The X Factor" and she has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound. She has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound. She has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound.

Caroline Bailey Kar

She reminds you of Britney Spears and Mary McCormack. She has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound. She has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound. She has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound.

Kevin Zegers

Kevin, most noted for his performance in "The Hot Chick", looks like a real heartthrob. He's probably not just his own person. This troubled boy acts, coupled with his acting experience, you can see him in the future as a leading man.

Jason Mewtas

Jason, who is known for his performance in "The Hot Chick", looks like a real heartthrob. He's probably not just his own person. This troubled boy acts, coupled with his acting experience, you can see him in the future as a leading man.

Danny Kane

The name might be the most famous name, but it's his first single, "Shine On", that has made him famous. He has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound. He has a strong voice, a beautiful face and a unique sound.

Email the author at: nina.marie@fox.com

Wendy Miller

If he plays his cards right, Wendy Miller (aka a model) will be the next Jessica Hahn or Ben Affleck. With his intense eyes and large fan base, we're pretty sure Wendy Miller can take the world by storm. He's a real heartthrob and he's not just a look.

John Legend

The child prodigy was and still is a prodigy. He's a real heartthrob and he's not just a look. He's a real heartthrob and he's not just a look. He's a real heartthrob and he's not just a look.

Katherine McPhee

She's a real heartthrob and she's not just a look. She's a real heartthrob and she's not just a look. She's a real heartthrob and she's not just a look.



KATHERINE MCPHEE

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